

FOCUS

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2005 Vital Statistics

Missouri teen births continued to decrease in 2005, declining by two percent from 8,891 in 2004 to 8,707 in 2005, the lowest number of teen live births since the end of World War II 60 years ago. The 2005 teen fertility rate of 42.4 per 1,000 females aged 15-19 was the lowest on record (since 1911). This represents a 34 percent decrease since 1991 when the teen birth rate last peaked at 64.3 per 1,000 females aged 15-19.

The Missouri teen birth decrease follows a national trend. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, it was reported that from 1991 to 2003, Missouri and the United States teen fertility rates both decreased by 33 percent. Missouri's rate remained slightly above the national rate through-

out most of this period. The 2005 Missouri rate of 42.4 per 1,000 females aged 15-19 was 3.2 percent above the most recent national rate of 41.1 in 2004. Despite the improvements, United States teen birth rates are still much higher than those in other developed countries.

Early teen births (less than age 18) to Missouri-ans also reached a record low count of 2,660, although records for this age group only go back to 1972. The Missouri fertility rate of 20.9 per 1,000 females aged 15-17 was 46 percent less than the rate in 1991 and is also lower than the most recent comparable national rate of 22.1 in 2004. Reasons for this decrease in teen fertility include improved contraceptive use and the use of more effective

Table 1

Vital Statistics for Missouri: 1995, 2004 and 2005

| | <i>Numbers</i> | | | <i>Rates per 1,000 Population</i> | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | <i>1995</i> | <i>2004</i> | <i>2005</i> | <i>1995</i> | <i>2004</i> | <i>2005</i> |
| Births | 72,804 | 77,709 | 78,547 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.5 |
| Deaths | 54,222 | 53,787 | 54,324 | 10.1 | 9.3 | 9.4 |
| Natural increase | 18,582 | 23,922 | 24,223 | 3.5 | 4.2 | 4.2 |
| Marriages | 45,057 | 40,824 | 40,675 | 8.4 | 7.1 | 7.0 |
| Divorces | 25,733 | 21,700 | 21,013 | 4.8 | 3.8 | 3.6 |
| Infant deaths | 539 | 583 | 588 | 7.4* | 7.5* | 7.5* |
| Abortions | 13,635 | 11,871 | 11,619 | 187.3* | 152.8* | 147.9* |
| Population (1000s) | 5,378 | 5,759 | 5,800 | | | |

*Per 1,000 live births

(continued on next page)

contraceptives among sexually active teens as well as increased abstinence among teens. Other 2005 provisional vital statistics reveal that Missourians maintained a record 76.8 years of life expectancy. This represents the same life expectancy as 2004, and it is still less than the 77.9 years for the United States in 2004. Missouri females reached record high life expectancy in 2005 of 79.4 years, 0.1 year more than the previous high in 2004. Male life expectancy was the same in both 2004 and 2005, 74.1 years. Table 1 provides a comparison of the 2005 data for other demographic categories with the 1995 and 2004 statistics.

The five leading causes of death remained in the same order as in 2004. (Table 2) Heart disease was the state's number one killer, followed by cancer, stroke, chronic lung disease, and unintentional injuries. Among the next five leading causes, Alzheimer's disease moved from eighth to sixth, fol-

lowed by diabetes, pneumonia and influenza, kidney disease and blood poisoning (septicemia). The latter passed suicide as the tenth leading cause of death in Missouri in 2005. Deaths due to the three leading causes of death: heart disease, cancer and stroke, all decreased in 2005 while causes four through ten all increased.

Heart disease and stroke continued long-term downward trends in 2005, as deaths due to heart disease decreased 4.0 percent and stroke deaths decreased by 4.8 percent. Since 1995, heart disease deaths decreased by 19 percent and stroke deaths decreased 16 percent. Cancer deaths, on the other hand, have been fairly stable over the last ten years. The gap between heart disease and cancer mortality has narrowed rather sharply in recent years. In 1995, there were about 6,000 more heart disease deaths than cancer deaths and in 2005, this difference decreased to just 2,437. If the current trend

Table 2
Leading Causes of Death with Rates: Missouri Residents 1995, 2004 and 2005

| | <i>Numbers</i> | | | <i>Rates per 100,000 Population</i> | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | <i>1995</i> | <i>2004</i> | <i>2005</i> | <i>1995</i> | <i>2004</i> | <i>2005</i> |
| <u>Leading Causes of Death</u> | | | | | | |
| Heart | 18,335 | 15,432 | 14,818 | 340.9 | 268.0 | 257.3 |
| Cancer | 12,319 | 12,429 | 12,381 | 229.1 | 215.8 | 215.0 |
| Lung cancer | 3,846 | 4,023 | 3,882 | 71.5 | 69.9 | 67.4 |
| Stroke | 3,937 | 3,483 | 3,316 | 73.2 | 60.5 | 57.6 |
| Chronic lung disease | 2,447 | 2,738 | 3,063 | 45.5 | 47.5 | 53.2 |
| Unintentional injury | 2,201 | 2,639 | 2,807 | 40.9 | 45.8 | 48.7 |
| Motor vehicle | 1,102 | 1,087 | 1,188 | 20.5 | 18.9 | 20.6 |
| Falls | 385 | 609 | 594 | 7.2 | 10.6 | 10.3 |
| Poisonings | 129 | 471 | 528 | 2.4 | 8.2 | 9.2 |
| Other | 585 | 472 | 497 | 10.9 | 8.2 | 8.6 |
| Alzheimer's disease | 486 | 1,384 | 1,631 | 9.0 | 24.0 | 28.3 |
| Diabetes | 1,237 | 1,466 | 1,549 | 23.0 | 25.5 | 26.9 |
| Pneumonia & influenza | 2,238 | 1,406 | 1,546 | 41.6 | 24.4 | 26.8 |
| Nephritis & nephrosis | 612 | 1,080 | 1,154 | 11.4 | 18.8 | 20.0 |
| Septicemia | 510 | 696 | 761 | 9.5 | 12.1 | 13.2 |
| Suicide | 726 | 728 | 731 | 13.5 | 12.6 | 12.7 |
| Homicide | 482 | 381 | 429 | 9.0 | 6.6 | 7.5 |
| AIDS | 502 | 144 | 128 | 9.3 | 2.5 | 2.2 |
| Maternal Deaths | 12 | 4 | 13 | 16.4** | 5.1** | 16.6** |

**Per 100,000 live births

continues, cancer will overtake heart disease as the state's number one killer by 2013, the first time in nearly 100 years that heart disease would not be number one.

Stroke has been the state's third leading cause of death behind heart disease and cancer since the 1940s. If current trends continue, chronic lung disease deaths will overtake stroke deaths by 2008 and unintentional injury deaths will overtake stroke by 2011. Advances in medical technology, the use of various drugs to lower cholesterol levels and control hypertension, and decreased smoking levels have helped reduce heart disease and stroke deaths. Deaths from chronic lung disease increased by 12 percent from 2004 to 2005 and 25 percent from 1995 to 2005. Unintentional injury deaths increased

by 6 percent in 2005 and 28 percent since 1995. Smoking is the primary cause of chronic lung disease, but reduced smoking takes longer to impact this disease than cardiovascular diseases. Changes in diagnosis of chronic lung disease also may be causing an increase in this cause classification. Increases in deaths from motor vehicle crashes, falls, and poisonings (including drug overdoses) have all impacted the number of deaths from unintentional injury deaths. Fall deaths actually went down slightly in 2005, but increased by 54 percent from 1995 to 2005, partly because of the aging population.

The infant death rate remained the same in 2004 and 2005, 7.5 per 1,000 live births. (Table 3) Missouri infant mortality has stagnated for the last 10 years as the 1995 rate was 7.4 per 1,000 live

Table 3
Trends in Maternal and Child Health Statistics: Missouri 1995, 2004 and 2005

| | <i>Numbers</i> | | | <i>Percents</i> | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|--------|--------|-----------------|-------|-------|
| | 1995 | 2004 | 2005 | 1995 | 2004 | 2005 |
| Infant Deaths | 539 | 583 | 588 | 7.4* | 7.5* | 7.5* |
| White | 384 | 406 | 405 | 6.4* | 6.4* | 6.3* |
| Black | 150 | 168 | 170 | 13.7* | 14.9* | 14.8* |
| Low Birth Weight | 5,547 | 6,440 | 6,368 | 7.6 | 8.3 | 8.1 |
| White | 3,893 | 4,639 | 4,508 | 6.5 | 7.3 | 7.0 |
| Black | 1,546 | 1,574 | 1,651 | 14.1 | 14.0 | 14.4 |
| Inadequate Prenatal Care | 8,704 | 7,490 | 7,667 | 12.3 | 10.1 | 10.2 |
| White | 5,561 | 5,088 | 5,191 | 9.4 | 8.3 | 8.4 |
| Black | 2,941 | 2,050 | 2,082 | 28.2 | 19.9 | 19.6 |
| Preterm (<37 weeks) | 8,563 | 10,352 | 10,722 | 11.8 | 13.3 | 13.6 |
| Multiple Births | 1,978 | 2,618 | 2,742 | 2.7 | 3.4 | 3.5 |
| Birth Spacing<18 mos. | 4,301 | 4,878 | 5,194 | 10.6 | 11.2 | 11.7 |
| Out-of Wedlock Births | 23,361 | 28,704 | 29,669 | 32.1 | 37.0 | 37.8 |
| Teen(10-19) Births | 10,487 | 8,891 | 8,707 | 14.4 | 11.4 | 11.1 |
| Early Teen (10-17) Births | 3,910 | 2,767 | 2,660 | 5.4 | 3.6 | 3.4 |
| Smoking During Pregnancy | 14,577 | 14,083 | 14,317 | 20.0 | 18.1 | 18.2 |
| Medicaid Births | 29,318 | 35,424 | 36,775 | 41.6 | 47.6 | 47.5 |
| WIC Births | 28,415 | 32,382 | 32,954 | 40.3 | 43.6 | 42.6 |
| Food Stamps Births | 15,567 | 17,710 | 18,528 | 22.1 | 23.8 | 24.6 |
| C-Sections | 15,111 | 22,832 | 23,749 | 20.8 | 29.4 | 30.2 |
| Live Births | 72,804 | 77,709 | 78,547 | | | |

*Infant Death rates are per 1,000 live births.

births. In 1995, the national rate of 7.6 was slightly higher than Missouri's rate of 7.4. By 2005, Missouri's infant death rate was 12 percent higher than the provisional national rate of 6.7 per 1,000 live births.

The low birth weight (less than 5.5 pounds) rate decreased slightly from 8.3 percent in 2004 to 8.1 percent in 2005, but was still seven percent higher than the 1995 rate of 7.6 percent. Other maternal and child health indicators show the following in 2005:

- Live births increased by one percent to 78,547, the highest count since 1990.
- Multiple births increased slightly from 3.4 percent to 3.5 percent of births, but were 30 percent above the 1995 rate.
- The rate of out-of wedlock births reached another record high, 37.8 percent.
- Short (less than 18 months) spacing between births increased among 2005 births

from 11.2 percent in 2003 to 11.7 percent.

- The rates of Medicaid and WIC births decreased slightly while the rate of births in which the mother was on Food Stamps increased in 2005 from 23.8 to 24.6 percent.
- Abortions decreased by 2.2 percent, from 11,871 in 2004 to 11,619, the lowest number of abortions in 30 years.
- Inadequate prenatal care increased slightly from 10.1 to 10.2 percent.
- C-Sections increased by four percent in the last year and 57 percent since 1995, reaching a record high of 30.2 percent of all births.

Marriages and divorces both continued to decline in 2005, marriages for the sixth consecutive year and divorces for the fifth straight year. Marriages totaled 40,675 in 2005; the lowest level since 1965 and divorces totaled 21,013, the lowest since 1972.

(Focus continued)